

## CHIEF TABBY

In June 1865, President Young together with Government Indian Agents, met the chiefs of the Utah Indians to sign a treaty providing that the Indians would move to the Uintah Reservation to make their homes.

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Among the important chiefs who signed this treaty was Tabby, who afterwards became the leader of the Indians on the reservation.

Tabby was a brother of Walker and Arapene, as well as Sanpitch. He is remembered by many of the settlers of Wasatch County and Duchesne County, and they always speak of him as a chief who desired peace. On several occasions he came to Salt Lake City, declaring that he wanted to live in harmony with the white people. Daniel W. Jones, one of the many writers who have written about Tabby, gives one of the best sketches in telling of his dealings with this well known chief.

Daniel W. Jones asked permission of some of the authorities to go to the Indians as a friend and talk with them, and chose the reservation as his field of labor. Upon his arrival he was notified that if he did not leave in three days he would be killed. Tabby sent word saying:

“You are an old friend, but the Mormons have killed many of my people; you are a Mormon, and if you stay here you will be killed. Some are mad because I do not want you killed at once. Now hurry and get ready, for I do not want to see you die.”

Jones went on making saddles to sell to the Indians, having the excuse that he needed a few more days to finish his work. One day Tabby and his squaw came to the shop, and without speaking to Jones, gave him a few odd jobs to do.

“Tabby stood straight and silent, hardly moving. He then took from his squaw some buckskin and without a word laid them on my bench. I commenced cleaning up, giving my bench a general straightening. When I came to the buckskins I handled them as though they were trash in my way, and asked the squaw if she would take care of them. At this Tabby laughed, holding out his hand in a friendly way, saying, ‘All right, we are friends, and it is foolish for us not to talk and be as we used to be.’”

Tabby then told Mr. Jones that it was the desire of the Indians to be friendly with the settlers, but said that he, himself, felt bad about the killing of his half brother as did the rest of the Indians. They held grievances against the agents who had charge of the reservation also. Whether the Indians were justified in their accusations we are not prepared to say, but we want to study their side of the story. On August 21, 1872, we read of Tabby fighting for justice for his people. This is taken from the Salt Lake Herald:

“At 11 a. m. a large number of Indians assembled with their chiefs, Tabby, Douglass, To-quoona, Won-da-ro-des, John, of Kanosh’s band, Joe, of Payson, and Antero. General Morrow, Superintendent Dodge, and Indian Agent, Critchlow; also Bishops Smoot and Bringhurst, and Generals Thurber and Pace, were present. General Morrow said he was glad to meet so many of his Indian friends. The Utes and whites had been together so long he thought they ought to feel as one family. The ‘great father’ at Washington had sent him to hold a council, and he wished them to tell him all their troubles. Douglass and Tabby said they wanted peace, and agreed to go to the reservation as required. They said that the agents had not furnished them what they promised; and that Colonel Irish had told

